

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 DRC-01 RSC-01 /039 W

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R 111527Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8266

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR STATE AND DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN VISIT OF DOT UNDERSECRETARY

BARNUM MAY 2-13, 1974

REF: STATE 067357

1. UNDERSECRETARY BARNUM MEETING WITH FRENCH COUNTER-PART WOULD MEAN CALL ON SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT ACHILLE-FOULD. HOWEVER, ACHILLE-FOULD'S CABINET PREFERS NOT SCHEDULE ANY SUCH APPOINTMENT IN VIEW INTERIM STATUS OF PRESENT FRENCH GOVERNMENT PENDING ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT. HENCE, THEY WISH UNDERSECRETARY BARNUM'S VISIT TO BE UNOFFICIAL IN SENSE OF NO CALLS AT MOT. HOWEVER, THEY WELCOME HIS VISIT OF FRENCH TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST WITH ARRANGEMENTS.

2. EMBASSY IN TURN HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT WISDOM OF VISIT AT THIS TIME TO AEROSPATIALE TO SEE CONCORDE. FUTURE OF CONCORDE PROGRAM IS STILL SUBJECT OF HIGHLY DELICATE NEGOTIATION BETWEEN FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, WITH CONTINUATION OF TALKS POSTPONED UNTIL NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT FORMED AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. IN MEANTIME, AEROSPATIALE HAS ANNOUNCED CUTBACK IN EMPLOYMENT

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WHICH HAS PRODUCED EXPECTED COUNTER-REACTION FROM

TRADE UNIONS IN TOULOUSE IN DEFENSE OF CONCORDE.
THEN THERE IS PENDING USG ISSUANCE OF SST NOISE AND
ENGINE EMISSION NPRM'S. ALL THESE FACTORS LEAD US
TO CONSIDER THAT VISIT TO AEROSPATIALE AT THIS
JUNCTURE BY SENIOR DOT OFFICIAL WOULD LEND ITSELF TO
MISINTERPRETATIONS THAT COULD BE EMBARRASSING TO US.
FRENCH, OF COURSE, WOULD BE LIKELY TO WANT TO GIVE
VISIT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN
AND PRESS WOULD BE CERTAIN TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.
EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS AGAINST AEROSPATIALE
VISIT.

3. PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY IS ORGANIZING VISIT
OF CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT FOR MORNING OF MAY 9
AND HAS INVITED UNDERSECRETARY AND PARTY TO LUNCH
THAT DAY. PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY INFORMS US THAT
WHILE DOT GRUMMAN GULFSTREAM COULD LAND AT CDG,
NEW AIRPORT IS REALLY NOT WELL ORGANIZED FOR SERVICING
AIRCRAFT OF THAT SIZE. WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT
IF AIRCRAFT WERE TO LAND AT LE BOURGET AND REMAIN
THERE. (CDG AIRPORT IS ONLY ABOUT TEN MINUTES DISTANT
BY CAR FROM LE BOURGET.) OTHERWISE, AIRCRAFT AFTER
LANDING AT CDG TO DISCHARGE UNDERSECRETARY'S PARTY
WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE MOVED TO LE BOURGET.
PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD PLAN FOR ARRIVAL
LE BOURGET OR CDG AIRPORT AND ALSO INDICATE ETA
MAY 9.

4. PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR VISITS TO AEROTRAIN
AND TO PARIS SUBWAY SYSTEM.

5. FOR AUTHORIZATION LAND AT MILITARY AIRFIELD
AT ORLEANS FOR AEROTRAIN VISIT, FRENCH AUTHORITIES
REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS, I.E., AIRCRAFT
REGISTRY AND NAMES OF ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW.

6. UPON RECEIPT OF UNDERSECRETARY BARNUM'S REACTION
TO THIS MESSAGE, EMBASSY WILL FIRM UP DRAFT PROGRAM
WITH FRENCH AND CABLE IT FOR DOT FINAL APPROVAL.

7. HOTEL RESERVATIONS CONFIRMED AS REQUESTED AT
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IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS08821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740084-0337
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740448/aaaabrmg.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 067357
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN VISIT OF DOT UNDERSECRETARY BARNUM MAY 2-13, 1974
TAGS: ETRN, OTRA, FR, (BARNUM), (ACHILLE-FOULD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005